



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### ***Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging Awards Senior Center Grants***

**COLUMBIA, S.C.** - The Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging has approved grants for the renovation of four senior centers in South Carolina through the Senior Center Permanent Improvement Program (PIP). Groups receiving these grants are the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission for renovation of the Seven Oaks Recreation Center (\$500,000 including a local match of \$150,000); Sumter Senior Services, Inc. (\$500,000 including a local match of \$150,000); Hopewell Senior Day Care, Inc. (\$500,000 including a local match of \$150,000); and Senior Citizens of Pickens, Inc. (\$125,000 including a local match of \$25,000).

The Senior Center Permanent Improvement Program was established by the South Carolina Legislature in 1991. Since then, the program has funded necessary construction and renovation projects at senior centers throughout the state.

In 1997, the state's aging office was tasked with the responsibility of developing a process to select and fund applications for senior center capital improvement projects, which created a competitive grant process for securing PIP funds. After a need-based application process is completed, site visits and evaluations are then made by the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, which guarantees that the PIP funding is fairly distributed to all approved projects.

The PIP funds are provided to maintain a safe and comfortable setting where older South Carolinians can receive much-needed services while interacting socially with other seniors and local citizens. It is the goal of the Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging to ensure the services and activities provided by senior centers will enhance the lives of the elderly and assist them in maintaining their mobility as long as possible.

"Keeping seniors physically and mentally active is something that is very important to our office," says Lieutenant Governor Glenn McConnell. "The cost of care is significantly reduced if seniors are able to remain independent through state-of-the-art centers that promote healthy habits, such as a balanced diet and exercise."

For more information on PIP grants, contact Gerry Dickinson at (803) 734-9900.

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